REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 have been amended. Claim 12 has been added. Thus, claims 1-12 are pending in the application for consideration. Applicant has amended the specification to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES

In the Specification:

The paragraph starting on page 19, line 19:

FIG. 3 schematically shows the structure of the image processing unit 36. In FIG. 3, image data R (red), G (green), B (blue) output from the color scanner section 1 is sent respectively to a color conversion section 131 in the image processing unit 36. The color conversion section 131 converts the input image data [r] R, G, B, to color signals of C (cyan), M (magenta), and Y (yellow). The color signals C, M and Y from the color conversion section 131 are sent to an image processing section 132. The image processing section 132 subjects the input color signals C, M and Y to various processings. Color signals C, M and Y output from the image processing section 132 are delivered respectively to a black signal generating section 133.

In the Claims:

1. An image processing apparatus for processing a plurality of color image signals input by reading of a color image on an original, the apparatus comprising:

conversion means for converting said plurality of color image signals to a plurality of color signals;

[first producing means for producing density distributions of plural color signals on the basis of the plurality of color signals converted by the conversion means;]

discrimination means for discriminating a type of the original [on the basis of the density distributions of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means];

first determination means for determining whether a background has a color on the original [a colored background on the basis of the density distributions of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means];

second determination means for determining whether a background process is to be executed or not, on the basis of a determination result of the first determination means and a discrimination result of the discrimination means;

[second producing] processing means for producing[, when the second determination means has determined that the background process is to be executed,] a

background process table [using the density distribution values of the plural color signals produced by the first producing means] on the basis of the plurality of color signals converted by the conversion means; and

density adjustment means for performing density adjustment of the plural color signals input from the conversion means, on the basis of the background process table produced by the [second producing] processing means, when the second determination means has determined that the color background process is to be executed.

2. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said conversion means, [said first producing means,] said discrimination means, said first determination means and said second determination means are operated in pre-scan, and said conversion means and said density adjustment means are operated in main scan.

4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, [wherein said first producing means produces] further comprising a histogram generating means for producing histogram data of each of the color signals.

8. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said [second producing] processing means produces the background process table using a minimum background elimination value calculated from the density distribution values of the color signals [produced by the first producing means].